

The Legislature.

The fifty days for which members of the legislature can draw pay are drawing to a close and so far nothing of any importance has been done. All kinds of "reform" measures have been introduced, amended, sent from one committee to another and relashed, only to go through the same routine a second time. All kinds of bills relative mortgages and interest have come up for discussion, but so far none of them have seemed satisfactory. There is one thing gentlemen, you must bear in mind, and that is you cannot help the debtor class of people by the enactment of laws that makes the collection of debts more difficult and complex. The simplest and easiest way to reduce interest is to remove the exemption laws and make collections easier and more certain. When a man loans his money, he figures on the amount of interest he is to receive, also the amount of trouble and expense he may be put to, to collect his money when it becomes due, hence the cost of chattel mortgages and other liens. As it is now, a man who is considered "good" gets money at 10 percent on his personal note, while his neighbor who has but 160 acres of land and a small amount of stock, pays from 15 to 24 per cent, besides going to the expense of paying a notary public for drawing up a chattel mortgage.

Business Depression.

The general falling off of business during the past few years has been hard on business men as well as on farmers. It is true, farmers are making little or nothing, and it is equally true of the man in business. Business buildings as well as farm property have depreciated in value. The thing to do is to economize and try and bridge over. We almost always have a good crop following a wet winter, and it is to be hoped this year will prove no exception to the rule. Already money is getting easier in the east, and if the legislature will repeal the "fool" law passed four years ago, by the Populists, with the aid of the Republicans, with reference to the foreclosure of mortgages, farmers will be enabled to renew their mortgages at a lower rate of interest, and many of them will pull through and save their farms. A legislature can make the collection of debts difficult, but can not compel a man to loan his money. If farmers did not already have their farms mortgaged, it would make no difference, as no new loans are being made, but many of our best farmers have mortgages and at present democratic prices are unable to pay them off and must renew the mortgage or lose the farm. Any law making the recovery of money at law more difficult, hurts the borrower and increases his rate of interest.

Another Shot at Leedy.

Railroad commissioner J. G. Lowe a democrat, who supported the fusion ticket during the late campaign wrote an open letter to Gov. Leedy under date of February 11th, and amongst other things has the following to say to the fellow who quit farming, and, in fact everything else, except politics because "he couldn't make a living at it," as regards the appointment Wm. Rogers as Regent of the State University:

"In your message you spoke earnestly, yes, almost affectionately, of our great and growing public educational institutions. You succeeded in impressing the people of the state that, come what would, those great institutions would have a friend to protect them during your incumbency. These institutions are the pride of every Kansan. Money is almost lavishly appropriated for their support and upbuilding and they are made the basis of all prophecy as to our future greatness. Kansas recognized that the true measure of greatness comes from properly educated and directed intellects and hence with what jealous care they guard those places of learning where their children are to receive those instructions fitting them for the responsibilities of an active and useful life. They look to you as the guardian of the character and morals of these schools of learning. They have a right to expect of you, yes to demand, to require, to exact of you faithful, honest, impartial nonpartisan guardianship, and were you but the smallest fraction of the man your position would indicate, their expectations would not be in vain. Your recent action in appointing Wm. Rogers as regent of the state university however stamped all your utterances with the ineffaceable brand of insincerity and falsehood. In such action you threw off the hypocritical mask of honesty you have been wearing and show yourself to be the veritable wolf of dishonesty, wholly unmindful of the welfare of this great institution of learning. In this appointment you have done violence to your oath, you have outraged decency, forfeited all claims to honesty and fairness, insulted the intelligence of the people, and assassinated the greatest educational interest of the state. You

have placed at the head of a great educational institution a man who, less than two years ago was publicly discharged from the same place by a legally constituted tribunal because of his drunkenness and immorality, impeached because of his evil and vicious example. You have given this man place and power whom you know to be ignorant, intemperate and irreligious; obscene, vulgar and immoral; profane uneducated, and intolerant. You have with autocratic power, and anarchistic disregard for the forms of law which, with uplifted hand you swore to protect, set them at defiance, trampled upon the verdict and judgment of a regularly constituted court, taught the doctrine of disregard for law and the judgment of courts and rendered yourself the subject of contempt from the people whose sovereign ruler you have proven yourself unworthy to be. There is no honest excuse for your conduct. You did it knowingly, willfully and purposely. You have by this act merited the condemnation your conduct will receive. Within and among the files of your office is the abundant record of this man's unfitness. You knew it from the records when you made the appointment; you knew it from the numerous protests you received from reputable Populists from his own county; you knew it as a part of the history of the state, and yet, with total disregard for the welfare of the state and her institutions, you defied public opinion, ignored the interests of an outraged but deceived and intelligent constituency, overrode the law, trampled upon morals and common decency and invited criticism if not aroused suspicion as to the motive which prompted you to so far forget your manhood and your position. You have exhibited such an aversion for decency as to forfeit all respect for mothers who have sons to educate, all fathers who have a vote to cast and all citizens who have a pride in our institutions, and convince the most confirmed skeptic that there is something in the doctrine of total depravity when applied to an accidental Governor of Kansas. You will hear from the people of Washington, whose feelings you have outraged and whose respect you have forfeited later.

With great respect for a wronged people and with many regrets for our assassinated educational institutions, I am yours,
JOSEPH G. LOWE."

Trouble in the House.

Wednesday, the populist majority in the lower house of the legislature undertook to appoint a committee with power to revise the calendar so as to put all the pet "reform" bills at the top in such a manner as to prevent any action on bills introduced by republicans. As it takes a two-thirds vote to change the house rules, and as the pops had not the necessary votes to do this, the republicans proceeded to check them in their nefarious scheme by demanding a roll call. For awhile trouble seemed imminent, but Senator Harris and others of the more sensible pop members of the legislature appeared on the scene and succeeded in convincing Representative Wellup who was in the chair that the republicans were right in their demands and the reformers reluctantly gave in.

No Resubmission.

None of the political parties dared monkey with the prohibition question in their platforms last fall. The question of resubmitting the matter to the people at the general election in 1898, came up one day this week, and the vote showed 62 for and 61 against; as it requires a two-thirds vote of both houses to resubmit the question this would indicate that the only way to get this law off the statutes at present, is by calling a constitutional convention, and the indications are this will not be done by the present legislature.

Two More Weeks.

We now have but two more weeks of Grover and his free-trade-tariff-for-revenue administration. After a four years' trial of issuing bonds to pay the deficiencies caused by a reduction of the tariff and other mismanagements by the democrats, a change in favor of a party which believes in making duties on imported goods sufficiently high to pay their fair share of the running expenses of the government will be welcomed by a large per cent of true Americans.

"Economy and reform" are the watchwords at Topeka now, and the way the legislature exemplified them the other day was to cut the wages of the teamster at one of the charitable institutions from \$25 a month to \$20. It is only fair to say that this great saving to the tax payers was accomplished solely by the Populists, as every Republican voted to rob the people by paying the man the full \$25.—Iola Register.

When any item of interest occurs in your neighborhood, come in and tell us about it or if you cannot come, write. We print the news, but must depend somewhat on our friends to help us hustle around and find it.

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1-22 tf F. M. DAWDY.

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The ideal liquid preparation for smoking meat—you can get it in any quantity—cheapest you ever bought.
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